

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 INRE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 /069 W

-----049822 172141Z /75

O R 171919Z APR 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1638

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0973

FOR ARA AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND S/S PETER TARNOFF

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), CU UR US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND
SECRETARY IN MOSCOW

1. GRANMA, APRIL 17, REPORTS THAT CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER
ISIDORO MALMIERCA IS DEPARTING TODAY FOR MOSCOW. SOVIET
DIPLOMATS HERE IN RECENT DAYS HAVE MADE REMARKS WHICH MIGHT
SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW IS THINKING OF PUTTING MALMIERCA
IN TIGHT WITH SECRETARY IN MOSCOW, PARTICULARLY IF SUBJECT OF
AFRICA ARISES. LIKELIHOOD THAT SUCH AN ENCOUNTER MIGHT
TAKE PLACE IS STRENGTHENED BY RECENT SIGNALS (SEE SEPTELS)
THAT CUBANS WISH TO ASSURE WEST THAT THEY WILL NOT MILITARILY
INTERVENE IN ERITREA OR PLAY DECISIVE MILITARY ROLE IN RHODESIAN
COMBAT.

2. IN THE EVENT THAT SECRETARY-MALMIERCA ENCOUNTER TAKES
PLACE, FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS MAY BE USEFUL:

--(COURTESY POINT) ACCEPT OUR SYMPATHIES ON DEATH OF HIS BROTHER
MANUEL, APRIL 14.

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--(IF CUBAN MILITARY NON-PARTICIPATION IN ERITREA
IS RAISED) THIS IS WELCOME SIGN OF RESTRAINT,
HOPEFULLY OPENING WAY FOR REDIRECTION OF CUBAN
INVOLVEMENT ON HORN INTO CIVILIAN CHANNELS. WHILE
UNDERSTANDING CUBAN DESIRE NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH
WEST OVER AFRICA, UNILATERAL CUBAN OR JOINT CUBAN-
ETHIOPIAN DECLARATION OF TIME PERIOD IN WHICH CUBAN

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WILL DROP WOULD BE WELCOME.

--(IF NON-USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN RHODESIA IS RAISED)
THIS WILL FACILITATE PURSUIT OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS
LOOKING TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN ZIMBABWE
INVOLVING ALL PARTIES. COMPLEX OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PRO-
BLEMS, INVOLVING ZIMBABWE AS WELL AS NAMIBIA, CAN
BE MOVED MORE READILY TOWARD POLITICAL SOLUTIONS IF
THREAT OF POTENTIAL CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT CAN
BE REMOVED. SIMILARLY, WITH REGARD TO ANGOLA,
CUBA COULD MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION BY SHOWING
MILITARY RESTRAINT IN AREAS NEAR NAMIBIA BORDER, AND
BY PUBLIC ASSURANCES CONCERNING FUTURE REDUCTIONS OF
ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA.

(IF POSSIBILITY OF FORWARD MOVEMENT IN US-CUBAN
RELATIONS IS RAISED) THERE ARE A NUMBER OF
AREAS WHERE WE WILL BE ESPECIALLY ATTENTIVE TO GESTURES FROM
CUBAN SIDE:

REDUCTION OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA;

- RELEASE OF FOUR AMERICAN CITIZEN POLITICAL
PRISONERS REMAINING IN CUBA;

- GRANTING OF EXIT PERMISSION TO 500-ODD US-CUBAN DUAL NATIONALS,
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MANY OF WHOM WISH TO EMIGRATE WITH THEIR CUBAN FAMILY MEMBERS;

- BEGINNING OF PROCESS OF CONSIDERATION OF US CLAIMS FOR
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATED PROPERTIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0803
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780450/aaaabqkk.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fefa27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2949875
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY IN MOSCOW
TAGS: OVIP, CU, UR, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fefa27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014